



*Monitoring Newsletter  
of the  
Blue Mountain Forests*  
*"Keeping on the right course"*

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## **FY2001 Annual Report**

The FY2001 Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report for the Blue Mountain Forests was recently completed and will soon be available on each Forest's web site, thanks to the efforts of Linda Dillavou. An additional document, the Executive Summary, will also be available. The Executive Summary provides an overview of the 2001 report and synthesizes findings by resource area. It can be a useful resource to gain an overview of conditions on the three Forests without having to read the full 135-page report. Paper copies of both documents will also be available on each Forest, contact your Forest Planning Staff if you would like a paper copy. Completion of the FY2001 report continues the commitment of the three Forests to the Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation program. The report organization follows the template from previous years, with a consolidated section followed by the monitoring items unique to each Forest. Suggestions on the report format or content are welcome, please contact Tim Davis (541.278-3849, [tedavis@fs.fed.us](mailto:tedavis@fs.fed.us)) if you have any ideas.

So, you're not all that excited about the completion of the FY2001 Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation report. You've already got enough paperweights and your bookcase is full, so what's in it for you? One use for the report would be to provide additional information on the existing condition of Forest resources. While the information in the report isn't generally site specific, it can be very useful in providing general resource information and trends that can support site-specific resource descriptions. Another valuable use for the report is the documentation it provides in terms of how project implementation meets objectives and Forest Plan standards and guidelines. If you need documentation that project design meets stated objectives, such as cut-to-length harvest system effects on soils, check out the monitoring report.

## **Tri-Forest Field Reviews**

The stage was set; plans were made, but last year's Tri-Forest monitoring field reviews didn't get off the ground. The effect of last year's severe fire season on team members' availability, and the limitations on travel resulted in the cancellation of the planned reviews. At this time reviews are not planned for the 2003 field season. With the revision of the Forest Plans scheduled to begin this fall, the decision was made to concentrate on revision preparation. As preliminary need for change work is completed for Plan revision, areas may be identified where field reviews could provide additional information. If field reviews are planned, personnel to make up the review teams will be needed. Experiences of past team members indicate these review trips are a great way to observe how other units are dealing with current management issues, and to share information with specialists from other units.

## **FY2002 Annual Report**

In light of the upcoming Forest Plan revision effort, the FY2002 Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation report will be in a different format. The new format will be based on a review of the past 10 years of Forest Plan monitoring. This review will look at how well Forest Plan objectives are being achieved, and identify any areas of need for change. Tim Davis, Forest Plan monitoring coordinator, will complete the review. Depending on initial results of the review, some assistance from the Forest's resource specialists may be needed.

Due to the change in report format, there will not be a request for the information needed to answer the specific monitoring items normally addressed in the report. While monitoring results may not be recorded in an annual report as in past years, monitoring efforts should continue. We have an obligation to complete monitoring as described in the Plans, and should be prepared to report the results until a new strategy is developed during Forest Plan revision.

## **Future Program Direction**

The Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation program will be undergoing changes as the Plans are revised. What the program will look like will be partially dependent on the final version of the proposed planning rule. In the current proposal the primary focus of monitoring is to measure the maintenance of, or progress toward, desired conditions and objectives of the Plan. This will be done through the establishment and assessment of performance measures. There should be opportunities to integrate Criteria and Indicator principles, as displayed in the LUCID (Local Unit Criteria and Indicators Development) test, which advocate a systems approach to forest monitoring based on sustainability goals. Key considerations in developing a new Tri-Forest monitoring and evaluation strategy will be keeping Plans current, coordinating with other agencies and governments, more practical and doable than the current strategy, and making findings and conclusions available to agency personnel and the public. If you have any thoughts on the new strategy, please contact Tim Davis.